

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2002

This is Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 CAT in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English on 145,725 and 145,400 MHz in Gauteng and on 7066 and 3695 kHz.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za and packet bulletin boards.

In the news today:

DXPEDITION QSO's

6m BEACON IN THE WESTERN CAPE QRV AGAIN

UPDATING OF MEMBERSHIP RECORDS

ZS CALLSIGN BOOK

SPECIAL EVENT STATION TO COMMERATE THE SINKING OF THE BIRKENHEAD

Stay tuned for more details on these and other news items

You are tuned to ZS6SRL. Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SILENT KEY

It is with deep regret that the Durban Amateur Radio Club announces that OM Bill Pieters ZR5LL passed away on Tuesday 29th January 2002 after suffering a heart attack.

To his wife Marlene, their children, family and friends, our deepest sympathies and condolences.

PAUSE

Now for the news in detail:

DXPEDITION QSO's

SARL News would like to bring to the attention of all radio amateurs that any QSO's with 7Q8/ZS6GH or C9/ZS6GH have been declared null and void. No license or authorization was issued by either Malawi or Mozambique.

6m BEACON IN WESTERN CAPE QRV AGAIN

ZS1SIX, the 6m beacon in the western Cape is once more QRV after a long absence. The beacon operates from the Cape Amateur Radio Centre clubhouse in Rondebosch with an output frequency of 50,080 MHz. The identification which is transmitted in CW is VVV ZS1SIX/B JF96FB. Output is 10 W into

a horizontally polarized antenna. The western Cape repeater group would be pleased to receive reports regarding the beacon. Reports can be sent by email to QRM@intekom.co.za or per packet to ZS1B@ZS0STB.

SARL MEMBERSHIP PARTICULARS

With a view to giving persons who have been members of the SARL for longer than 5 years a special award later this year, details of membership are required. In the Jan/Feb issue of Radio ZS a list of 326 names was published of members whose details are not known. Up till now only 60 members have reacted to the request to provide their dates of joining the SARL before the 1st March. Members are therefore requested to peruse this list to ascertain if their callsign appears there and to pass on the particulars of their date of joining the SARL by email or telephone. The special email address is QRM@intekom.co.za and the telephone number is 021-460-3640. This is a voicemail service and is available 24 hours a day.

ZS CALLSIGN BOOK

All members of the SARL should have received their copy of the new callsign book. Please look through it carefully and report any faulty entries, omissions, silent keys, etc to Laurie ZS5DL through the National Amateur Radio Centre by letter, fax or email. Please note that the entries are not limited to members of the SARL, but include all radio amateurs whose details are known to the SARL. The SARL does not have access to the data base of ICASA as this is in the hands of a private company and can only be obtained at great expense.

Your co-operation will be appreciated.

HMSS BIRKENHEAD 26 FEB 1852 - 26 FEB 2002...150 YEARS

On 26 February 2002, ZS1OAR the Overberg Amateur Radio Club, will host a special event station from Danger Point lighthouse, Gansbaai, RSA in commemoration of the stranding of the Birkenhead on 26 Feb 1852.

The callsign ZS1OAR/BIRKENHEAD will be used. The ZS1OAR club QSL card, depicting this area, and rubber stamped with a special Birkenhead stamp, will be issued for contacts who must QSL direct and provide a SASE. QSL direct to: ZS1OAR,

P O Box 637, Gansbaai. 7220.

NOTE; DO NOT QSL VIA THE BUREAU!!!!!!

Time: start 05:00 UTC to 16:00 UTC. Freq: 7,050, 14,200, 21,200, 28,400 MHz.SSB (approx and depending on propagation predictions and conditions); grid locator: JF95PJ.

Enquiries: ZS1WC Johan, e-mail wjmc@xsinet.co.za

THE NEW SIMPLIFIED PATH TO AMATEUR RADIO IN NEW ZEALAND

New Zealand has adopted a simple route to obtain an amateur radio license.

New Radio Communications Regulations became effective in New Zealand from October 2001. There are only two grades of amateur radio license, Limited and General.

In the early 1990's, the New Zealand administration devolved the examining and testing for the Amateur Radio Examination to New Zealand's amateur radio society and IARU member- society, NZART, the New Zealand Association of Radio Transmitters Incorporated.

Candidates can study on their own or with instructors at NZART branches. An Amateur Radio Examination is held when required by a candidate or candidates and is by appointment at a convenient time and place. The examination is supervised by Examiners from NZART Branches.

The examination paper has 60 multiple-choice questions taken from a 600-question public-domain question-bank. Special computer software has been developed to select and print the questions for each candidate's paper. Each candidate receives a unique computer-generated paper.

The candidate is given two hours to answer the 60 questions.

The paper is then marked by the Examiners using a list of correct answers for that particular paper as supplied by the computer. A pass requires 40 correct answers to the 60 questions. The results are given before the candidate leaves the examination site.

A candidate with a successful examination result can apply for a Limited grade license for operation on all amateur bands above 30 MHz with full privileges. A General grade license requires the addition of a pass in a 5 words-per- minute Morse sending and receiving test. This is held when required by a candidate. It is supervised by Morse Testers from NZART Branches.

You can read about this New Zealand licensing system at the NZART web site: <http://www.nzart.org.nz> . You can download the actual software used and then print, answer, and mark, your own examination papers. All examination information is freely available to anyone, the syllabus, the 600 questions in the question-bank, the report forms used and a description of the security safeguards built into the software and into the procedures can be downloaded.

NEWS SNIPPETS FROM THE USA

ARRL CONTINUES TO OPPOSE THE FCC'S INTENTION TO ALLOW UNLICENCED RFID'S

The ARRL filed comments on the 12th Febr in which they oppose the FCC'S proposal to allow the operation of unlicensed RFID'S in the 70cm amateur band. They called the applicant's request "an ill conceived proposal". The ARRL suggested the FCC look at frequencies around 868 or 915 MHz rather than in the amateur band where serious interference can be expected if RFID'S are allowed.

AMATEURS ASSIST WITH PROVISION OF SERVICES AT WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

More than 200 amateur radio volunteers are assisting with security and are available to provide back-up communication to numerous Olympic venues during the 2002 Winter Olympic Games that presently take place in Salt Lake City, USA. Their services are available 24 hours per day.

AMATEURS ASSIST WITH STORM FORECASTING

Attendees at the seventh annual Amateur Radio Hurricane Conference earlier this month in Miami gained some insights into how forecasters make use of reports gathered via ham radio to produce hurricane and tropical storm advisories. National Hurricane Center staffer Stacy Stewart described how so-called “ground truth” reports from hams in an affected region can augment data gathered via instruments, radar and satellites and permit forecasters to generate more accurate models of storms in progress.

Stewart told the gathering that, among other things, ground truth reports can give forecasters a more meaningful picture of wind velocities at different elevations. The eyewitness ham radio reports also can help forecasters to pin down a storm’s location and give them a clearer idea of what actions the public is taking or might have to take, he said.

CLUB NEWS

HAMFEST 222

The Bloemfontein ARC had a very successful Hamfest 222 on 2 February 2002 at the recreation hall at the AFB Bloemspruit.

Between 150 and 200 people from ZS2, ZS3, ZS4, ZS6 and 7P8 attended. The work sessions presented by Philip ZS4PV on satellites and DX on 2m and 70cm; and Nico ZS4NS and Barry ZS6DXB on 6 metre and WJST software were well attended. The flea market was also well supported and many new ideas were seen at the antenna farm.

The club still has an Icom IC2100H 2-metre set and a cellphone to give away in a draw which will take place during the weekend of the SARL VHF/UHF competition. Tickets are available from Barney ZS4AQZ at 083 462 7507. There are only 200 tickets for the 2-metre set of which two thirds have been sold.

MUSEUMDAY - SASOLBURG RADIO CLUB

SASOLBUG RADIO CLUB is holding an exhibition of old radio equipment as well as homebrew items on 30, 31 May and 1 June. There will also be an opportunity for a flea market.

A special event station will be on the air for the whole period. QSL cards will be issued to all stations worked.

Local schools will be invited to visit the exhibition on Thursday and Friday. Saturday will be mainly for other visitors.

Clubs and individuals are invited to reserve tables and submit a short list of equipment for display and/or the flea market. The due date for reservations is 5 May to allow enough time for the final arrangements and advertising on news bulletins.

Tables will be available at R40,00 per table for the whole period and reservations must be confirmed with the appropriate amount. Cheques and information can also be send to and requested from Box 1493, Vereeniging, 1930.

A foodstall with vetkoek, hotdogs, hamburgers, etc. will also be available on the premises.

The SARL News Service invites Clubs and individuals to contribute news regarding Amateur Radio to sarlnews@hotmail.com only. NEWS ITEMS SENT TO OTHER ADDRESSES COULD GO ASTRAY AND MAY NOT BE INCLUDED IN BULLETINS. It will be highly appreciated if it is done in both Afrikaans and English and sent as early in the week as possible.

SARLNEWS thanks all contributors, individuals, clubs and other organizations for contributions to this bulletin and all stations who so reliably relay the bulletins.

This bulletin was compiled by Gustav ZS6BWN, and read by.....from . . . as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts. A copy of this bulletin can be downloaded from www.sarl.org.za as well as packet bulletin boards.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 21560, 9750 and 7082 kHz and 145,750 MHz in the Pretoria area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 20:00 CAT on 3215 kHz. ARMI is sponsored by Telkom and Sentech.

At noon on Sundays the SARL President s net is on the air on 7082 kHz.

This is ZS6SRL, thank you for joining us.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX